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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CXR  
LIMITED [GB/GB]; Unit 5, Riverside Business Centre,  
Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4UG (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

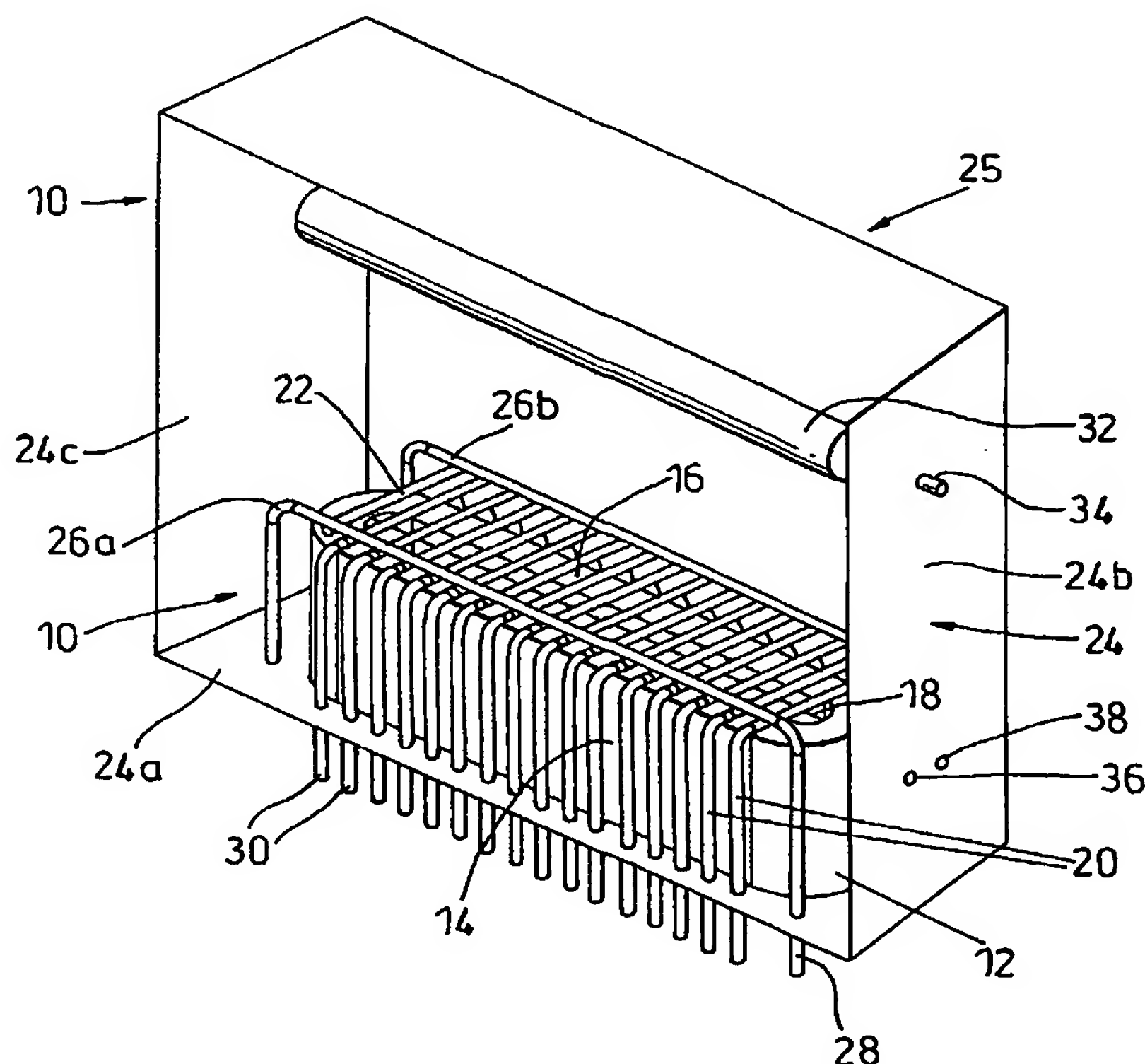
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MORTON, Ed-  
ward, James [GB/GB]; 37 Banders Rise, Guildford,  
Surrey GU1 2SL (GB). LUGGAR, Russell, David  
[GB/GB]; 17 Dene Street Gardens, Dorking, Surrey RH4  
2DN (GB). DE ANTONIS, Paul [GB/GB]; 3 Vale Drive,  
Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2JU (GB).

(74) Agent: BARKER BRETTELL; 138 Hagley Road, Edg-  
baston, Birmingham B16 9PW (GB).

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(54) Title: CONTROL MEANS FOR HEAT LOAD IN X-RAY SCANNING APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: An X-ray scanning apparatus comprises a number of multi-focus X-ray tubes (25) spaced around an axis X and arranged to emit X-rays through an object on the axis which are detected by sensors (52). Each tube (25) can emit X-rays from a plurality of source positions. In each scanning cycle, in which each of the source positions in each of the tubes is used once, the ordering of the positions used is arranged so as to minimize the thermal load on the tubes (25). This is achieved by ensuring that each source position is non-adjacent to the previously active one and the next active one.